

For immediate release

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Contact: Jim Muench at (573) 751-9065 or

Kristi Jamison at (573) 526-2423

Wal-Mart selects Harrisonville, Mo., for food distribution center

Announcement marks company's second Missouri site selection in less than two weeks

HARRISONVILLE, Mo. -- For the second time in less than two weeks, Wal-Mart Stores Inc. has announced the selection of a Missouri site for one of its distribution centers. The company has selected Harrisonville, Mo., as the site for a food distribution center, which will create more than 350 jobs early next year.

Wal-Mart plans to begin construction of its first food distribution center in Missouri -- an 860,000-square-foot facility -- in August. The center will be located west of U.S. Highway 71 just south of Harrisonville. The company expects to begin hiring in February 2001.

The Department of Economic Development (DED), the Kansas City Area Development Council (KCADC) and the city of Harrisonville worked closely with Wal-Mart Inc. to help bring the facility to Missouri.

"In the past two weeks, Wal-Mart has brought a tremendous amount of investment and nearly a thousand job opportunities to Missouri," said Joseph L. Driskill, DED director. "The state's central location, available transportation system, experienced workforce and quality of life are all important factors in a corporation's decision to locate in Missouri. I am pleased that the state could work with its local partners to make this project happen."

The city of Harrisonville is expected to submit an application to DED for a loan and an industrial infrastructure grant through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. Any funds through the CDBG program are contingent upon successful application by the city. In addition, the state has determined that the company is eligible for assistance through the Business Facility Tax Credit program and the Missouri First Linked Deposit program. The company may also apply for job training funds through DED's Division of Workforce Development.

"Wal-Mart's selection of Harrisonville is further evidence of the locational strength and diversity of the Kansas City metro area. Being true to its corporate heritage, Wal-Mart intended to locate this facility in a small community environment somewhere in the Midwest," said Robert Marcusse, president and CEO of the Kansas City Area Development Council. "Metro Kansas City's ability to step up and offer Wal-Mart a small town location within just 45 minutes of the heart of Kansas City proved to be a tremendous advantage in our efforts to secure this operation."

"In terms of investment, employment and sheer size of the building, this is the largest economic development project in the history of Cass County and is a tremendous success for the entire region," Marcusse said.

The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program provides economic development grants

and loan funds to cities with a population under 50,000 and counties under 200,000 to assist in the location of new industry and the expansion or retention of existing businesses.

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